

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEBSITE OFFERS PARENTING TIME GUIDANCE, INFORMATION ABOUT COURTS' ROLE

LANSING, MI, June 14, 2004 – Parenting time information, tips for effective communication between parents and advice on resolving parenting time disputes can be found at a new website launched by the Friend of the Court Bureau, a division of the State Court Administrative Office.

“For parents who have split up, parenting time and child support are the make-or-break issues,” said Daniel J. Wright, director of the Friend of the Court Bureau. “Too often, those issues become the battleground where the parents’ differences play out, instead of the common ground of wanting what’s best for the children. This website will, we believe, help parents resolve those issues in a meaningful, constructive way.”

The site is organized by subject, including “What is Parenting Time?”, “The Role of the Court in Parenting Time,” “Making the Most of Parenting Time,” “The Role of the Friend of the Court,” and “Michigan Parenting Time Guidelines.” Each subject has its own page with more detailed information. For example, the “Role of the Court” page includes such topics as “Court Orders,” “Hearings,” “When the Court Can Order Parenting Time,” “If You Don’t Like the Judge’s Decision,” and “How to Ask the Court to Set Up and Change a Parenting Time Order.” Video clips of judges, parents, children, and Friend of the Court workers illustrate various topics.

The site also offers “parenting time do’s and don’ts,” such as good communications between parents. “Unfortunately, some parents don’t want to deal with each other and make the child the messenger,” Wright noted. “That is unfair, and very destructive, to the child. Where parents have their child’s best interests at heart, they must learn to communicate with each other.”

Wright added that, “We want parents to give special thought to the role they play in their children’s lives – and to ways they can improve as parents. We hope that this website will help them.”

The website is available at <http://www.courts.mi.gov/scao/services/focb/parentingtime/>.

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